

MARVEL  
2 .com

REGINALD HUDLIN • MIKE WIERINGO

# Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

THE  
OTHER

EVOLVE  
OR DIE

PART 4 OF 12



RK!  
KESEL  
MOUNTS  
2005





HAVE  
YOU...





HAVE YOU  
GOTTEN A SECOND  
OPINION YET?

UH, NO...  
THINGS HAVE  
BEEN KIND OF  
BUSY...



"KIND OF BUSY"! THIS IS A  
DEATH SENTENCE, PETER!  
AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN  
CHECKED TO SEE IF IT'S  
REALLY TRUE?



WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO  
GO? I CAN'T JUST WALTZ  
INTO SOME HMO AND ASK  
FOR THE SPECIAL  
POWERS PLAN...

HOW  
ABOUT DOWN  
THE HALL TO ALL  
YOUR SUPER-  
SMART SUPER-  
FRIENDS?!!!



AUNT  
MAY, I CAN  
HANDLE  
THIS...

NO YOU  
CAN'T. YOU'RE  
TOO PROUD TO ASK  
YOUR FRIENDS FOR  
HELP. THEY'LL JUST  
YELL "AVENGERS  
ASSEMBLE!" ONE DAY  
AND YOU WON'T SHOW  
UP BECAUSE YOU'RE  
LAID OUT ON  
A SLAB.





WHAT'S GOING ON IN STARK'S OFFICE?

I DUNNO. THAT REDHEAD CHICK AND THAT OLD LADY--PETER'S MOM, I THINK--STORMED IN THERE AN HOUR AGO. CAN'T BE GOOD.



OH MAN! SO MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH TO THE HEADLINES ABOUT THE MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY AND THE SUPERMODEL?



I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE SITUATION HERE.

LADY, I DO SECURITY. GUYS LIKE STARK--THEY ALWAYS HAVE A WEAK SPOT. A WILD SIDE. THAT'S WHY HE'S GOT HIMSELF SEALED UP IN A TIN CAN.



DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. NOTHING BUT THE BEST.

IF YOU COULD JUST KEEP THIS QUIET.

OF COURSE. THAT WOULD BE BEST FOR EVERYBODY.



UH...

SO, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.



**SOME TIME LATER...**

SO...

...WHAT KIND  
OF RESULTS ARE  
YOU GETTING,  
REED?

THERE'S CELLULAR  
DEGENERATION, BUT  
IT'S NOT CANCER  
OR ANYTHING  
TRADITIONAL,  
YELLOWJACKET.

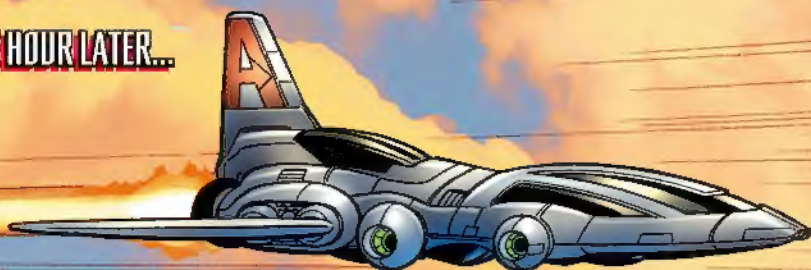
I DON'T GET IT, EITHER.  
I FEEL LIKE IT'S TIED TO  
THE RADIATION-BASED  
INFECTION THAT GAVE  
HIM HIS POWERS, BUT  
I'M NOT AN EXPERT  
IN THAT FIELD.

THIS IS A VERY SMART ROOM.  
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO  
RADIATION-BASED MUTATION,  
THERE'S ONLY ONE TRUE  
EXPERT.

HOLD ON,  
DOCTOR FOSTER.  
YOU'RE NOT  
SAYING WHAT I  
THINK YOU'RE  
SAYING...



ONE HOUR LATER...



MAYBE  
IT'S JUST  
THE NEW  
YORKER IN  
ME...

LOCK



...BUT  
THE DESERT  
GIVES ME THE  
CREEPS.

WE'RE GETTING  
A HEALTHY SIGNAL  
SAYING HE'S IN  
THE AREA.

CAN THAT  
THING DISTINGUISH  
WHETHER HE'S  
NORMAL OR HULKED  
OUT?



YIKES!

WHOOSH!



YOU TELL  
ME.

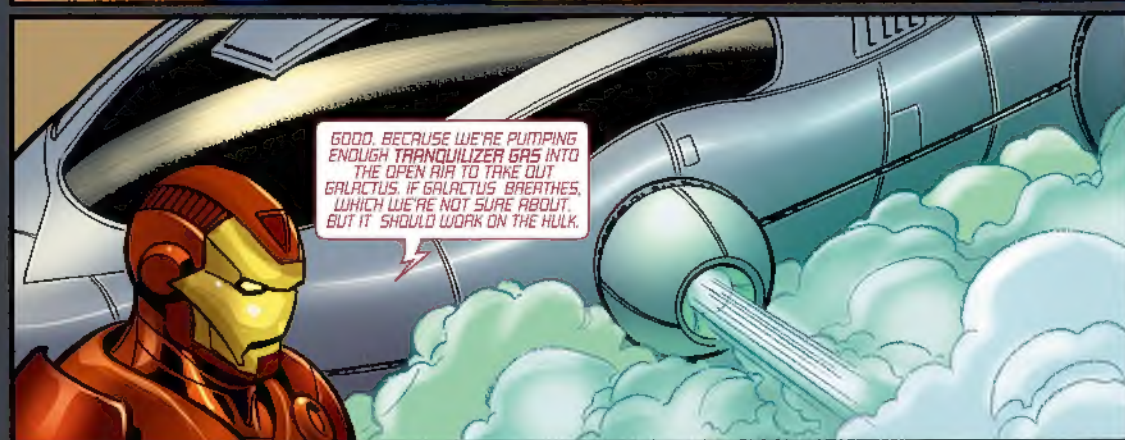
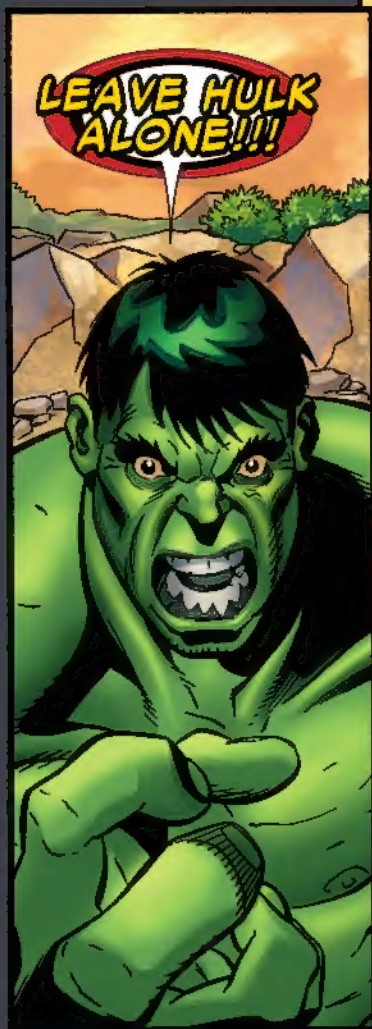


IS IT TOO  
LATE TO CALL IN  
THE REST OF THE  
TEAM?

YOU WERE THE ONE  
WHO WANTED TO KEEP  
THINGS "PRIVATE,"  
REMEMBER?

CALM DOWN, GUYS.  
WE CAN REASON  
WITH HIM.









BRUCE... WE REALLY  
NEED YOUR HELP. WE'RE  
PLEADING WITH YOU...

BRUCE NOT  
HERE! CALL HULK  
HIS NAME AGAIN  
AND HULK  
SMASH!!!!



YOU'RE  
GETTING IN ARM'S  
REACH. I WOULDN'T  
DO THAT.

RELAX, BRUCE. YOU'RE  
WITH FRIENDS. WE NEED  
YOUR HELP. JUST WATCH  
THE LIGHTS.



LIGHTS...  
PRETTY...



YES, VERY PRETTY...  
WATCH THE PATTERN...



YOU  
TRICKING  
HULK!?



THIS IS STUPID.  
I SHOULD HAVE  
BROUGHT  
MY WIFE.

C'MON.  
REED. ONE NIGHT  
OUT WITH THE BOYS  
CAN'T HURT. BESIDES,  
I'D SAY THE THING  
WOULD BE MY  
CHOICE OF--

SUE WOULD  
CUT OFF HIS AIR  
WITH A FORCE FIELD.  
HIS LUNGS WOULD FILL  
WITH GAS AND THIS  
WOULD BE OVER. NOW  
WE'VE GOT TO DO  
THIS THE HARD  
WAY.

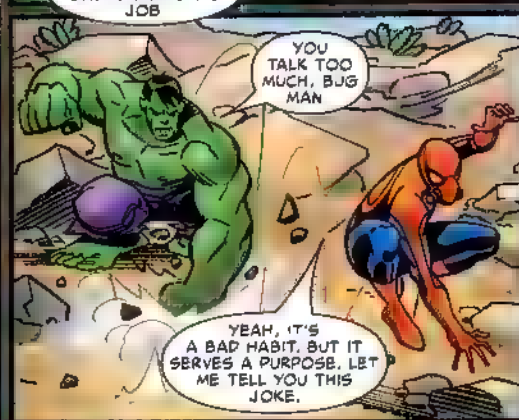














LATER.  
THE BAXTER  
BUILDING.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

THAT  
YOU'RE  
STANDING A  
LITTLE  
CLOSE.

SORRY

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET  
BANNER INTO OUR HOME  
B G MISTAKE, REED, AND  
HE AIN'T KEEPING MY  
SHIRT.

STOP POUTING,  
BEN. WHAT WAS I  
SUPPOSED TO DO?  
HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY  
EQUIPMENT ON HAND.

YOU KNOW  
WHY THAT IS. SMARTY  
PANTS? 'CAUSE HE'S THE  
HULK, AND THE HULK LIKES  
TO SMASH STUFF YOU WANNA  
TALK ABOUT A BULL IN A CHINA  
SHOP? HE'S RIGHT THERE. AND  
THE HULK AIN'T COVERED ON  
OUR HOME-OWNERS POLICY.  
I'LL TELL YOU THAT.

THE LOOK  
ON YOUR FACE  
DOC, DOESN'T  
SCREAM  
"CURE"

I'M SORRY,  
BUT I'M GOING TO  
NEED SOME MORE TIME.  
UNFORTUNATELY,  
AT THE RATE IT'S  
SPREADING...

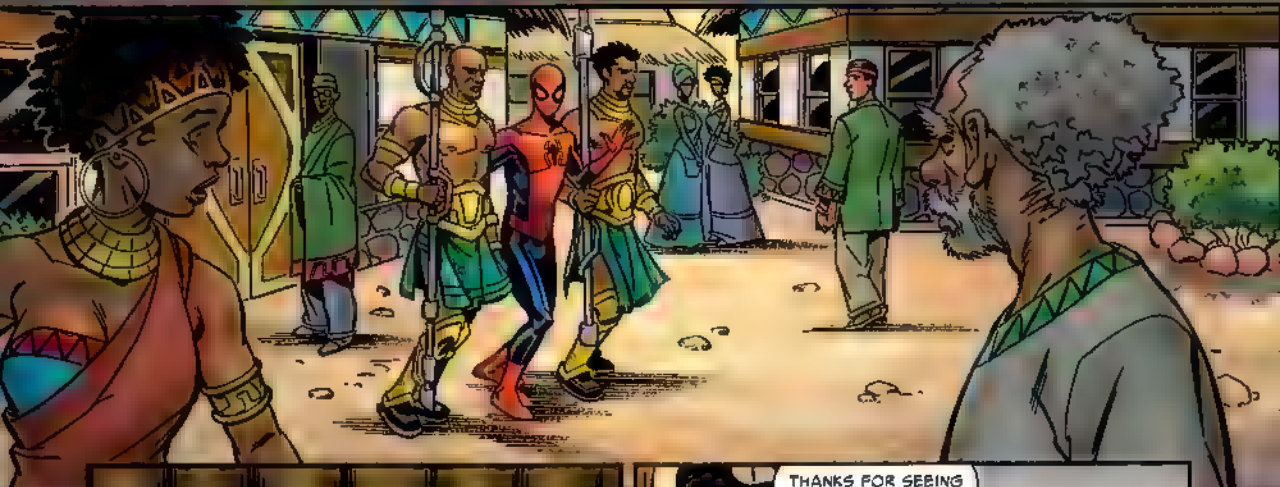
I GUESS  
THAT'S IT. I MEAN  
YOU'RE THE GURU OF  
RADIATION. IF YOU  
CAN'T HELP ME,  
NO ONE CAN.

THAT MIGHT  
NOT BE THE CASE  
I HAVE A  
SUGGESTION.

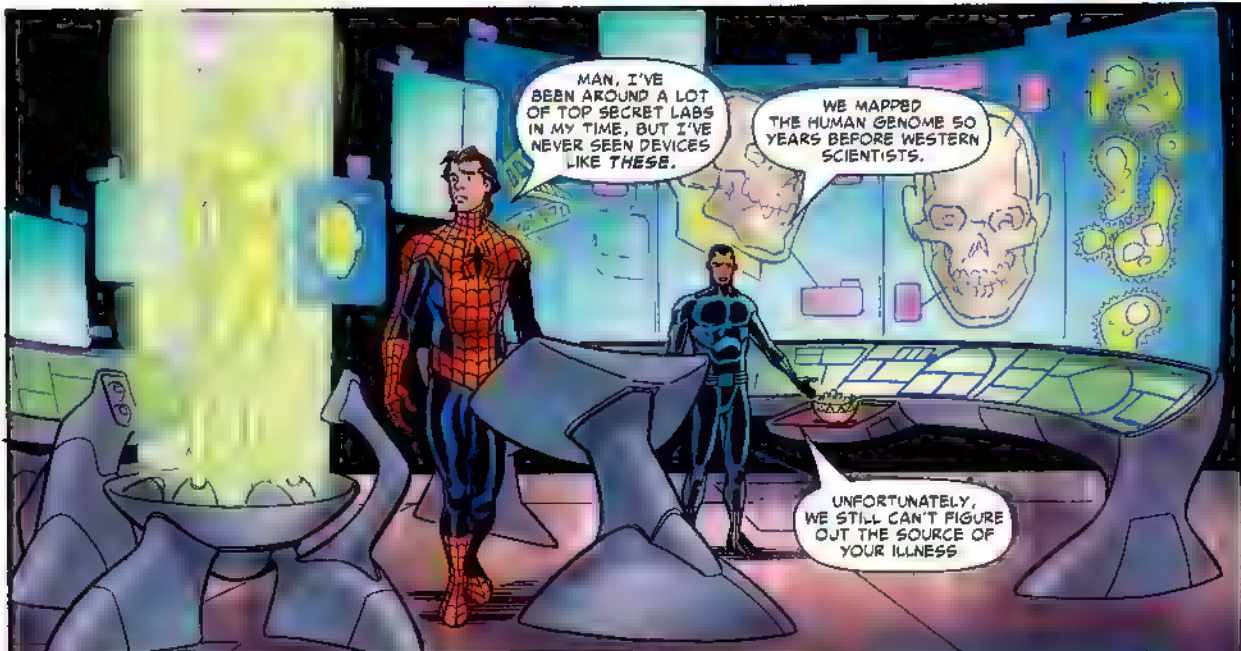
I'M ALL  
EARS



THREE HOURS LATER  
WAKANDA, AFRICA







MAN, I'VE BEEN AROUND A LOT OF TOP SECRET LABS IN MY TIME, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN DEVICES LIKE THESE.

WE MAPPED THE HUMAN GENOME 50 YEARS BEFORE WESTERN SCIENTISTS.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE SOURCE OF YOUR ILLNESS

OUR FINAL EFFORT IS-- THIS.

THANKS, BUT... I'M NOT REALLY A SALAD MAN. MAYBE IF YOU HAD A BURGER WITH IT--

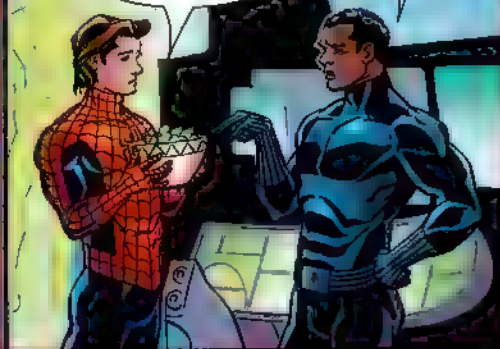
THESE ARE THE HEART-SHAPED HERBS. THEY ARE A SPECIAL PLANT FOUND ONLY IN WAKANDA. ONLY A WARRIOR PROVEN TO BE WORTHY OF BEING THE KING CAN INGEST THEM. THEY GIVE THE LEADER OF THE BLACK PANTHER CLAN HIS SPECIAL ABILITIES.



OH.

THEN... THEN WHY AM I ALLOWED TO EAT THEM? I MEAN... I'M NOT...

YOU ARE A WARRIOR WITH THE HEART OF A KING. DIG IN.



HMMMPH. CHEWY.

WOULD IT BE SACRILEGIOUS TO ADD SALAD DRESSING?

YES.



HMMM. HMMM. GOOD! NOW WHAT?

WELL, IT WILL TAKE A DAY OR SO FOR RESULTS.

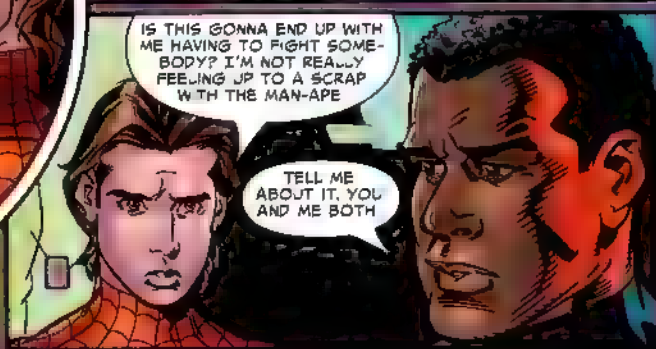
OKAY, THEN... GOT CABLE? THE SOPRANOS ARE ON TONIGHT...

YES... BUT YOU'RE IN AFRICA. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING UNIQUE TO THE REGION?

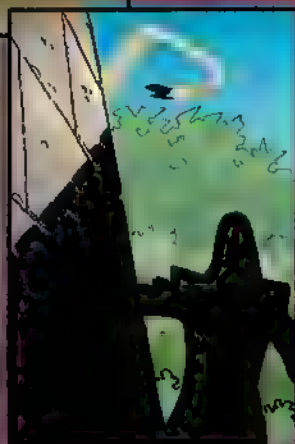


IS THIS GONNA END UP WITH ME HAVING TO FIGHT SOMEBODY? I'M NOT REALLY FEELING UP TO A SCRAP WITH THE MAN-APÉ

TELL ME ABOUT IT. YOU AND ME BOTH



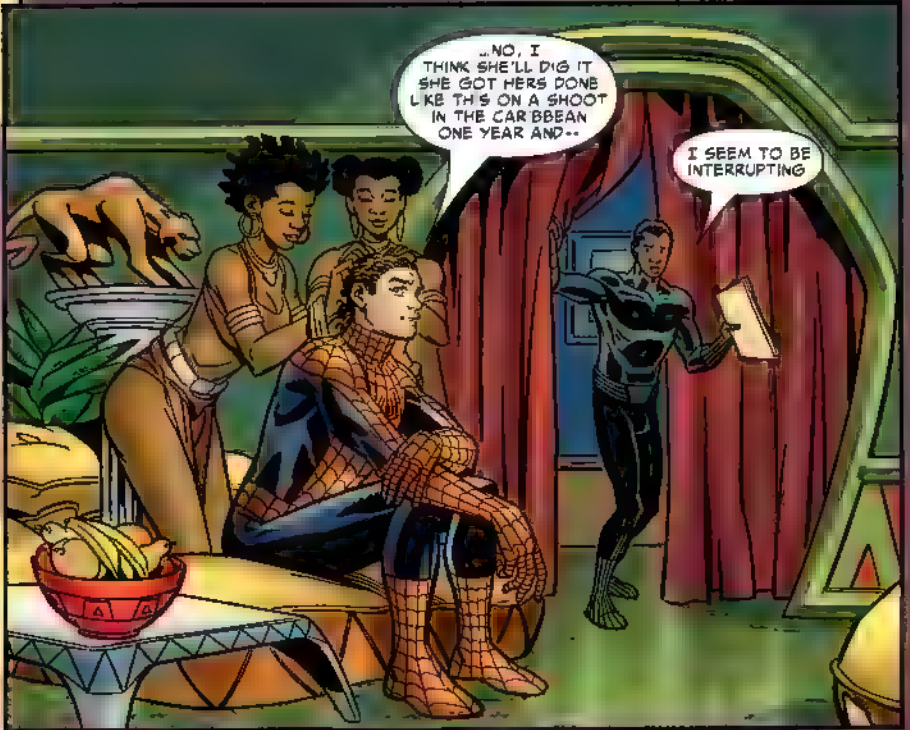








PETER?  
I HAVE YOUR  
RESULTS.



...NO, I  
THINK SHE'LL DIG IT  
SHE GOT HER DONE  
LIKE TH'S ON A SHOOT  
IN THE CARBEAN  
ONE YEAR AND--

I SEEM TO BE  
INTERRUPTING



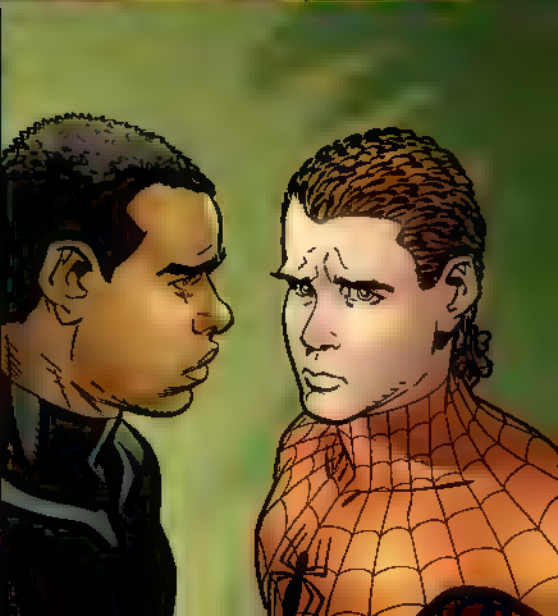
THIS ISN'T  
WHAT IT LOOKS  
LIKE

SHE'S  
NOT BRAIDING  
YOUR HAIR?

I GUESS  
IT IS WHAT IT  
LOOKS LIKE



EXCUSE ME  
LADIES, WE  
NEED TO TALK  
ALONE.





Okay, I've got to face facts. I've tried every expert possible. There's no way around it. I am going to die.

I'd never thought I'd go out like this. I mean, I always thought I would die, but in a quick but stupid way like a fatal paper cut from Batroc the Leaper.

We could be worse. When I first started doing this, back in high school, I thought I would die a bachelor. Whew. Check THAT one off the list.

But I never got to do anything really nice for my wife. No fancy vacations, no expensive gifts, no kids.

I was always too busy fulfilling my "responsibility" to my so-called "great power" to really take care of my real responsibilities...to my family. And now I'm about to lose everything.

I don't even have LIFE INSURANCE!





**BANG! BANG!**

GREAT--  
I CAN'T EVEN  
GET MY MOPE  
ON WITHOUT  
SOME MORON  
COMMITTING A  
CRIME.



WELL,  
SOMEONE JUST  
VOLUNTEERED TO BE  
THE OUTLET FOR MY  
FRUSTRATIONS



TRY AND  
SHOOT ME?  
I'M THE  
OX!!!



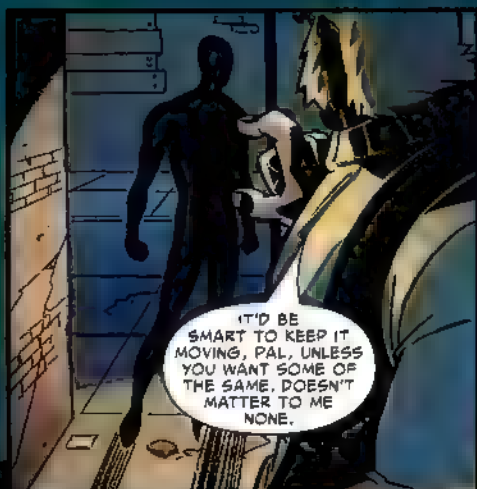
NO ONE  
WELCHES ON FAT  
TEDDY. AND, NEXT TIME  
YOU GONNA BET, THINK  
TWICE BEFORE YA PUT  
IT ON THE KNICKS.



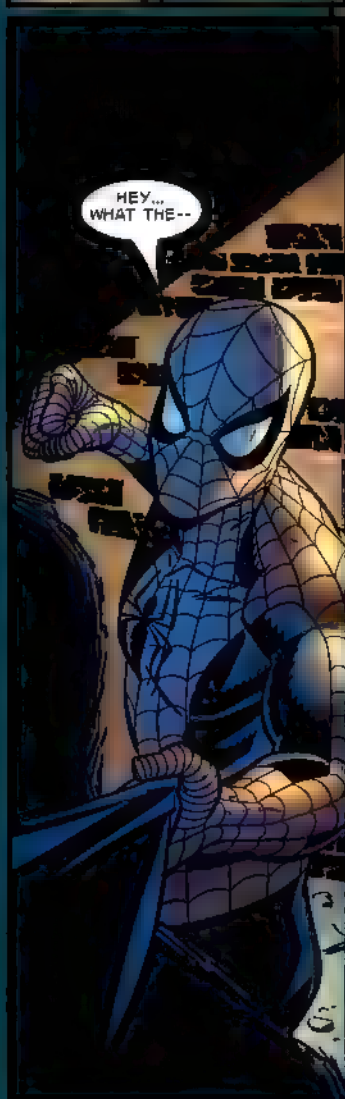
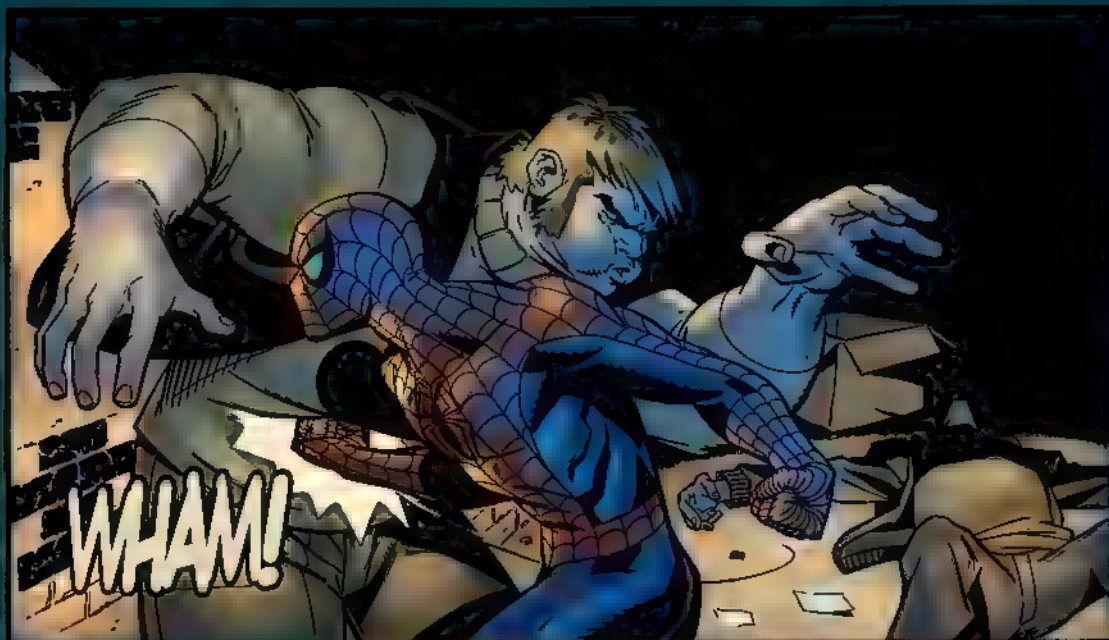
CLINK  
CLINK  
CLINK  
CLINK

WHO'S  
THERE?

















DAREDEVIL...?

I'M SURE  
HE DESERVES IT...  
BUT BEFORE YOU CAME  
IN HIS HEAD...IT'S  
OVER UNLESS YOU  
WANT HIM DEAD.

I MEAN,  
I'D BE UPSET IF  
SOMEBODY CALLED  
ME JOE PISCIPPO  
TOO, BUT  
STILL...



GET OUT OF  
HERE. HE NEEDS  
MEDICAL  
ATTENTION.

AND YOU  
NEED SOME ANGER  
MANAGEMENT. NOT  
TO BE THE POT  
CALLING THE KETTLE  
BLACK...

I...I  
THOUGHT  
HE WAS...

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER WHO YOU  
THOUGHT HE WAS.  
GET OUTTA HERE.  
AND YOU OWE ME  
ONE.



**FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...  
THE SANCTUM OF STEPHEN STRANGE**



DON'T TOUCH THAT! SOME OF THESE ARTIFACTS ARE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.



WHY? WOULD THAT OPEN THE GATES TO HELL OR SOMETHING?

NO... IT'S JUST VERY FRAGILE.



OH! THAT'S NOT GOOD.

YOU CAN TELL?

YOU HAVE A MALADY. BUT NOT PHYSICAL.



OKAY, NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. WHAT'S THE DEAL, DOC?



LET THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO PEEK INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS AND SEEK OUT THE TRUTH.

Y'KNOW, NOT TO BE SILLY, BUT I SAW SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR AT SHARPER IMAGE...

YES. I SAW IT, TOO. QUIET NOW...



LOOK, I WAS NEVER KNOWN FOR MY BEDSIDE MANNER, SO I WILL SPEAK VERY DIRECTLY. I CANNOT LIFT THIS CURSE. AND THE FORCES AGAINST YOU ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

OKAY, IS THAT LIKE THE OVERCONFIDENT BAD GUY SAYING "YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT THIS TIME, SPIDER-MAN!" TYPE-UNSTOPPABLE... OR PUT-YOUR-AFFAIRS-IN-ORDER UNSTOPPABLE?





YOU'RE  
A GOOD MAN  
WHO'S LIVED A GOOD  
LIFE. PREPARE  
TO DIE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN #20